



Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
3921 E. Bayshore Rd., Suite 204
Palo Alto, CA 94303
Protecting the planet since 1933

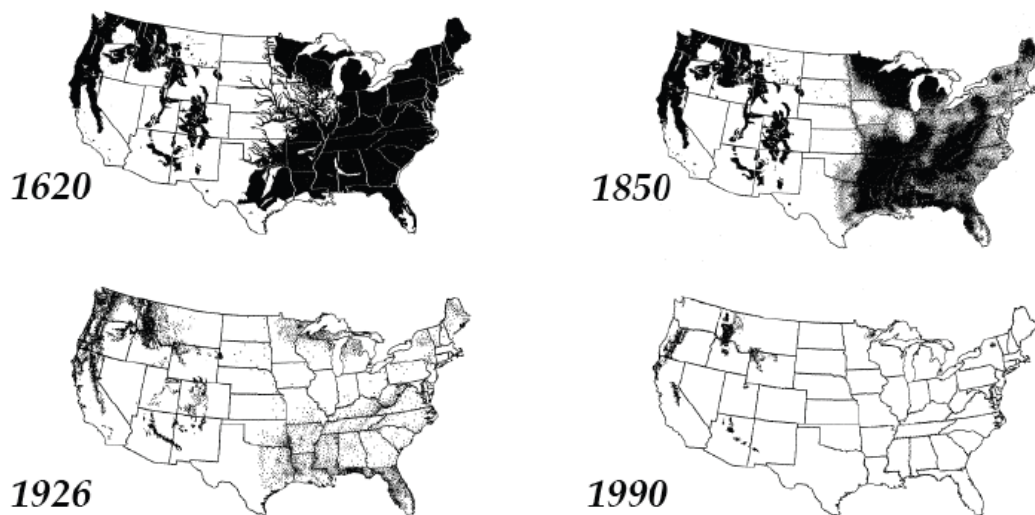
Cupertino City Hall
10300 Torre Avenue
Cupertino, CA 95014

Dear: Council, and Mayor Barry Chang

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club is requesting that the City of Cupertino pass a resolution calling for a ban of clear-cutting California forests and send the resolution to our State Senator Jim Bealle, Assemblyperson Evan Lowe, and Governor Jerry Brown.

Most efforts to combat climate change focus on reducing and eventually eliminating the emissions of greenhouse gases. Since more carbon dioxide has already been released into the atmosphere than is safe, it is necessary to encourage “the other side of the equation” – in vegetation preservation and expansion, which absorbs carbon dioxide. Maintaining mature trees is an effective means to remove carbon dioxide. The diagram below graphically demonstrates how nearly unrestrained destruction of our forests has left us with only a small fraction of the original forests.

As a nation we have aggressively stolen from future generations.



Distribution of Forests in Continental United States

*Conservation Fund, Humboldt Redwood Company, Mendocino Redwood Company, Redwood Forest Foundation, Collins Pine, and Big Creek Lumber

Nevertheless, harvesting forests for timber is currently an integral component of the developing our modern infrastructure. Many companies* profitably harvest forests in a manner that sustainably provides lumber and preserves the critical ecology of the forest with its myriad of insects, small animals, and foliage. Such methods are called selective logging in which a mixture of trees of different ages are harvested. This minimizes the disruption of the forest ecosystem and allows carbon contained in the soils to remain.

An end to clear-cutting in California can be enacted by Governor Brown, the state legislature, the Board of Forestry or the California Air Resource Board (CARB). However, they will only take this action if the public demands changes.

So far seven California cities have passed a resolution calling for a ban on clear-cutting in California: Davis, Berkeley, San Francisco, Daly City, Menlo Park, Brisbane, and Monte Sereno. In addition, Saratoga sent a letter to Governor Brown asking for end to clear-cutting and Sunnyvale has put ending clearcutting on their list of desired legislation. I have included sample resolutions from Menlo Park, San Francisco, and Brisbane. We are requesting that Cupertino join nine other California cities in taking action.

Cities, citizens, and industry are taking action to combat climate change. Why shouldn't the forestry industry do their part?

Sincerely,



Gary Latshaw, Ph.D.
Member of the Forest Protection Committee of the Loma Prieta
Chapter of the Sierra Club



Karen Maki
Chair of the Forest Protection Committee of the Loma Prieta
Chapter of the Sierra Club

*Conservation Fund, Humboldt Redwood Company, Mendocino Redwood Company, Redwood Forest Foundation, Collins Pine, and Big Creek Lumber